Act, emphasising greater participation of private agencies in housing activities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to ensure complete implementation of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI R.K. DHAWAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Main reasons therefor are prolonged litigation and vast scope of discretionary powers particularly relating to grant of exemption under Section 20 of the Act.

(c) to (e) The Government is considering various proposals to amend the Act in order to make it more workable by shifting the thrust from acquisition to development of land mainly for the purpose of housing. No. final decision has been taken so far.

Completion of Inquiry into Ferozabad Train Accident

1170. SHRI RAGHAVJI:
SHRI O.P. KOHLI:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether inquiry in the rail-accident on August 20, 1995, at Firozabad between the Purushottam and Kalindi Express in which over 250 persons were killed, has since been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the causes and circumstances of the accident;

(c) the compensation since paid to the victims or their families; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent recurrence of such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) and (d) Yes, Sir. The enquiry by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Northern Circle into the accident at Firozabad station involving Purushottam and Kalindi Express trains on 20.8.95 has been completed and his report has since been received. The Commissioner of Railway Safety has ascribed failure of the Switchman, West Cabin of Firozabad to put back the lever of starter signal to 'ON' position (red colour) after passage of Kalindi Express and for despatching Purushottam Express on the occupied line without taking 'line clear' from the next station as the cause of the accident.

(c) Ex-gratia payment of Rs. 29,10,000/- to the dependents of the deceased and Rs. 2,73,000/- to the injured have been made. Compensation will be paid soon after the claims are decreed by the Railway Claims Tribunal.

(d) The steps taken to prevent recurrence of such accidents are as under:-

(i) The Government has decided to complete track circuiting from Fouling Mark to Fouling Mark on all the stations on trunk routes and main lines by March, 1996. Track circuiting between starter and advanced starter on all the trunk routes will be completed by June, 1996.

(ii) The radio-based communication system between station staff, driver and guard of the running train will be provided which will enable preventive action in such exigencies.

(iii) Railways have been asked to provide track circuit ahead of starter signal to make the starter signal red after the passage of the train.

(iv) The distance between starter and advanced starter is being reduced to 180 metres at road side stations so that the train, if it has not passed advanced starter, can be seen by the Cabinman.

(v) Signal Circuit is being modified to ensure that the signal for next train cannot be lowered till the lever of starter and advanced starter lowered till the lever of starter and advanced starter lowered for the earlier train is put back to 'ON'.

(vi) A high level 'Safety Group' has been set up to suggest measures to further improve safety standards on Indian Railways.

(vii) In addition, on-going safety measures like counselling, inspections/checks, monitoring have been intensified.

Constitution of National Level Blood Council

1171. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 500 of the existing 1,100 blood banks in the country have been found to be unlicensed by a high powered committee appointed by the Supreme Court;

(b) whether it is also a fact that unless corrective action is taken immediately, blood banks in the country would become a source for the spread of the AIDS;

(c) what action has been taken by Government to grant license to all the existing blood banks in the country; and

(d) whether Government are considering to establish a national level blood council?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) No Sir.

(b) Necessary corrective measures have already been initiated to license all the blood banks in the country.

(c) Drugs Controller of India has already directed the State Drugs Controllers/FDAs to ensure that all the remaining Blood Banks in the country are licensed speedly.

(d) The matter is subjudice.

Exclusion in use of Technology

1172. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether country is facing any exclusion in the area of dual use technology exports of designs and processes that have sensitive application;

(b) if so, the specific areas affected;

(c) whether Indian Research Technical Organisation, Indian Industry and other venture capital institutions have done any mapping exercise to form a consortia to strengthen R & D; and

(d) if so, the details of the new research technology format evolved, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) The country if facing exclusion in the area of imports of dual use technology of designs and processes that have sensitive applications. This is mainly because: our country is not a member of any of the four existing Ad-hoc Export Control Regimes set up by the nuclear weapon/missile powers, viz. Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), Australia Group (AG), Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and COCOM/New Forum; our country is also not a party to the NPT nor has it accepted full-scope safeguards of its nuclear facilities; our country has an advanced missile programme; South Asia is viewed by the USA & other NATO countries as a war prone area; furthermore the NATO countries strongly seek to maintain their technological lead. Against this background, it is likely that our companies & laboratories would not have access to any or at best only some